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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MOLEX INCORPORATED [US/US]; 2222 Wellington Court, Lisle, IL 60532 (US).
- (72) Inventors: CHOUDHURY, Masum; 795 Olesen Drive, Naperville, IL 60540 (US). STANCZYK, Thomas, R.; 5800 Oakwood Drive, Unit 5-E, Lisle, IL 60532 (US). RICHARDSON, Dean; 3112 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091 (US). DONVAL, Ariela; 14 Efroni Street, 48550 Rosh Haayin (IL). ORON, Ram; 7a Shikmin Street, 74064 Nes Ziona (IL). ORON, Moshe; 26 Busel Street, 76404 Rehovot (II.).

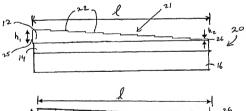
- (74) Agent: BOSE, Romi, N.; Molex Incorporated. 2222 Wellington Court, Lisle, IL 60532 (US).
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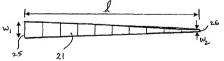
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND TAPERED WAVEGUIDE FOR IMPROVING LIGHT COUPLING EFFICIENCY BETWEEN OPTI-CAL FIBERS AND INTEGRATED PLANAR WAVEGUIDES AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING SAME





(57) Abstract: A tapered waveguide optical mode transformer (20) includes a tapered core formed on a planar substrate structure (16). To vertically taper the core (21), steps (22) are etched into the top surface of the core. The steps have depths and lengths along the optical axis of tapered waveguide that are selected to transform the optical mode characteristics of a desired optical fiber to the optical mode characteristics of a desired planar waveguide. The core can also be tapered horizontally to form a 2-D tapered waveguide. The tapered waveguide can be integrally included in planar lightwave circuits (PLCs) to reduce light coupling losses between optical fibers and the PLC waveguides.